

Memorandum

*Serious drought.
Help save water!*

To: Eric Lund, PE
North Region Design

Date: April 10, 2015

File No.: 1-MEN-1-42.4/43.3
01-401400
01 0000 0155
Salmon Creek
Bridge Replacement

From: Steve Werner 
North Region Office of Environmental Engineering—North

Subject: Initial Site Assessment and Transmittal of Preliminary Site Investigation Report

This memorandum conveys the findings of an Initial Site Assessment (ISA) and the results of a Preliminary Site Investigation (PSI) for the Salmon Creek Bridge Replacement project. A PSI was initiated after a review of paint records indicated the original lead paint used on the structure had been removed (sandblasted off) and that paint waste was visible in soil beneath the bridge during a subsequent field review of the project site. When the original paint removal occurred, we believe it was common practice to discharge sandblast waste to the environment. The ISA determined that the primary hazardous waste issue for the project is the lead-containing sandblast waste that is present in the soil beneath the bridge structure and the associated impacts of lead to shallow groundwater underlying that waste.

Although the PSI determined that lead containing sandblast waste is present and groundwater appears to have been impacted by that waste, it has not been established that a removal “cleanup” of the waste is required or prudent. We have provided the PSI report to the Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency and the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, but at the time of this writing, we have received no directives or intensive interest from those parties. A complicating factor to any cleanup would be the separation of our waste from the impacts of the historic industrial use of the site. Be aware also that our investigation of the sandblast waste has been restricted to the State right of way, but our data suggests the impacts extend well beyond that boundary.

The PSI adequately delineated lead impacts to soil beneath the structure in the State right of way. Additional investigation may be necessary to determine lead

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levels in waste that could be generated from grading a new alignment required to tie in an offset replacement structure, or to determine groundwater conditions in the Salmon Creek Canyon in the event that pier dewatering is necessary.

For the purposes of determining the appropriate environmental document required, the project site should not be considered to be on the *Hazardous Waste and Substances Site List (Cortese List)*.

If there are any changes to the scope of the project, please send an e-mail or letter describing the changes so an evaluation can be made for possible hazardous waste issues that could affect your project.

Attachment

cc: 1-SWerner
Cassandra Pitts
Frank Demling

2-File

SSW